



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/784,008	02/19/2004	James L. Adamson	3435.02US01	6980
24113 7590 11/01/2007 PATTERSON, THUENTE, SKAAR & CHRISTENSEN, P.A. 4800 IDS CENTER 80 SOUTH 8TH STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-2100			EXAMINER SALIARD, SHANNON S	
			ART UNIT 3628	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/01/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/784,008	Applicant(s) ADAMSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Shannon S. Saliard	Art Unit 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/23/04; 9/13/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Invention I (claims 1-18) in the reply filed on 06 August 2007 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-2, 9, 11-13, and 18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moulinet et al [US 2001/0032172].

As per **claims 1, 11, and 12**, Moulinet et al discloses a method of providing a computerized integrated sales system for destination events comprising: receiving a request for proposal (RFP) from a potential destination event organizer requesting information from a convention visitor bureau (CVB) organization on hosting a given destination event [0052; user prepares RFP]; having the CVB organization compile related information about the RFP and electronically publish the RFP and related information on a member user interface hosted by an application service provider and accessible to a plurality of independent service providers that are members of the CVB organization [0051; 0053; 0055; sending RFP to short list of service providers (i.e., members of CVB) via a client system]; having at least two of the members of the CVB

organization periodically log into the member user interface to review the RFP and related information and, in response, complete an electronic form on the member user interface for any services responsive to the RFP that the member is willing to make available [0055; 0056; 0058; each service provider may review RFP on computer; if the service provider desires to perform the service; for preparing proposal a service provider is provided with multiple data entry fields]; automatically incorporating information from the electronic form into a projected service availability database maintained by the application service provider and accessible only by the CVB [0037; 0060; stores information in database of CVB]; having the CVB organization review the projected service availability database for the RFP for the given destination event and prepare a response to the RFP that includes information about services from at least two members of the CVB that is then communicated to the potential destination event organizer [0044; 0061-0063; client system receives and reviews the service provider's response; server (CVB) notifies winning and non-winning service providers]; and if the potential destination event organizer accepts the response to the RFP for the given destination event, having the CVB electronically communicate with each of the at least two members of the CVB that the response to the RFP has been accepted [0071].

Moulinet does not explicitly disclose communicating that the member can enter into direct bilateral contracts with the potential destination event organizer for the services identified in the electronic form for the given destination event. However, Moulinet discloses notifying a member that the contract has been awarded by the organizer [0071]. Moulinet further discloses that the service provider can provide contract terms

when submitting a response to the RFP. Thus, if the organizer accepts the contract terms of the provider, there is a bilateral agreement for services. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Moulinet to include communicating that the member can enter into direct bilateral contracts with the potential destination event organizer for the services identified in the electronic form for the given destination event so that there is no variance in serviced rendered.

As per **claim 2**, Moulinet further discloses wherein updates to information in an RFP provided by the potential destination event organizer is automatically made available by the CVB to members via the member user interface [0084].

As per **claims 3 and 13**, Moulinet further disclose wherein once the electronic form is submitted by a member, any changes to the electronic form made by a member are made to the projected service availability database only when approved by the CVB [0089].

As per **claims 9 and 18**, Moulinet et al further discloses wherein the application service provider also hosts a customer webpage interface and the potential destination event organizer submits the RFP for a given destination event via the customer webpage interface [0044].

4. **Claims 4-8 and 14-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moulinet et al [US 2001/0032172] as applied to claims 1, 3 and 13 above, and further in view of Tromczynski et al [US 2006/0010023].

As per **claims 4 and 14**, Moulinet et al does not disclose wherein the application service provider automatically maintains an audit trail of all information submitted each member via the electronic form to the projected service availability database and all changes approved by the CVB. However, Tromczynski et al discloses a tracking process that keeps records of each RFP and responses [0048]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Moulinet et al to include the method disclosed by Tromczynski et al

As per **claim 5**, Moulinet et al does not disclose wherein the RFP includes a date by which the response is due and the application service provider automatically sends email reminders to members if the members have not submitted electronic form for the RFP prior to the date by which the response is due. However, Tromczynski et al discloses sending a reminder to service providers as the due date for RFPs approaches [0048]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Moulinet et al to include the method disclosed by Tromczynski et al so that all providers are provided an opportunity to reply.

As per **claims 6 and 15**, Moulinet et al does not disclose wherein the members of the CVB organization include at least two hotel members and the electronic form for the hotel members includes availability and prices for blocks of hotel rooms in response to the RFP, and wherein the projected service availability database includes a projected occupancy room flow for the destination that the CVB organization utilizes in preparing the response to the RFP. However, Tromczynski et al discloses that CVB organization includes a hotel and the hotel provides availability and prices for rooms. Tromczynski et

al further discloses that number of available guest rooms is considered when accepting selecting a provider [0038]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Moulinet et al to include the method disclosed by Tromczynski et al to ensure proper accommodations.

As per **claims 7 and 16**, Moulinet et al does not disclose wherein the application service provider includes a software module that automatically analyzes the projected occupancy room flow and generates a hotel availability portion of the response to the RFP. However, Tromczynski et al discloses providing summaries of availability for services for a required date [0038]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Moulinet et al to include the method disclosed by Tromczynski et al so that organizer makes a well informed decision.

As per **claims 8 and 17**, Moulinet et al does not disclose wherein the application service provider hosts a software module that selectively integrates portions of the projected service availability database in order to display on the member user interface non-confidential summaries of the future availability of selected services for the destination by date. However, Tromczynski et al discloses providing summaries of availability for services for a required date [0038]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Moulinet et al to include the method disclosed by Tromczynski et al so that organizer makes a well informed decision.

5. **Claim 10** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moulinet et al [US 2001/0032172] as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Official Notice.

As per **claim 10**, Moulinet et al does not disclose wherein software modules that support the member user interface and the projected services availability database are updated and maintained by the application service provider and not by the CVB organization. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known in the computer industry to have an application service provider update and maintain software. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Moulinet et al to include wherein software modules that support the member user interface and the projected services availability database are updated and maintained by the application service provider and not by the CVB organization to streamline operations.

Conclusion

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of

Application/Control Number:
10/784,008
Art Unit: 3628

Page 8

the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shannon S. Saliard whose telephone number is 571-272-5587. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Please address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows:

***Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231***

Or faxed to:

Application/Control Number:
10/784,008
Art Unit: 3628

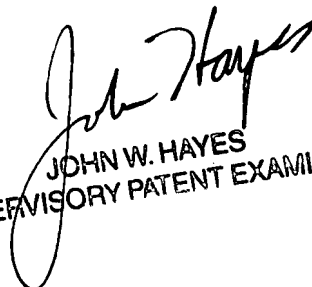
Page 9

(571) 273-5587 [Informal/ Draft Communications, labeled
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window,
Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Shannon S Saliard
Examiner
Art Unit 3628

SSS


JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER